

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
WASHINGTON, DC 20511

Colleagues,


In my November 17, 2005 confirmation statement to the Senate Committee on Intelligence I promised that, if granted the opportunity, we would create processes that directly address risk mitigation issues and re-engineer legacy processes, in particular those dealing with certification and accreditation.

The time has come to make good on that promise and change the way we certify and accredit our systems. If we continue on our current path following our existing processes, the cost to re-certify expiring accreditations for intelligence information systems over the next two years will exceed many millions of dollars and that doesn't include bringing in new capabilities. A significant portion of that cost is due to widely divergent standards and controls, the lack of a robust set of automated tools and reliance upon manual review of very complex and interconnected information systems. Our actions prevent industry from providing the Intelligence Community innovation and leading edge technology because we require commercial products to go through a costly and lengthy product accreditation process that can only be afforded by large companies – and then we make them repeat the process with each different agency. Failure to establish uniform certification and accreditation practices throughout government stifles innovation, hinders efforts to automate the process, and sustains cost growth.

The Director of National Intelligence tailored our national intelligence strategy in a way which seldom conforms to the traditional profiles of hostile states and alliances. We need to redefine our processes to better support that strategy. Today, we require our Intelligence organizations to share with ever increasing numbers of nontraditional customers and partners. The ultimate outcome of Chief Information Officer activity should be to improve information sharing and serve as a catalyst to reduce bureaucracy and tear down stovepipes. The certification and accreditation processes we are about to recast will define and sustain a delicate balance between the need-to-share and the need-to-protect intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure.

The mission of the Intelligence Community requires close interaction and cooperation with other Departments and Agencies of the Federal Government, as well as our academic and industry partners. Together we can redefine our processes and move from a posture of risk aversion to one of risk management, from a concept of information security at all costs to one of getting the right information to the right people at the right time with some reasonable assurance of timeliness, accuracy, authenticity, security and a host of other attributes. Today we look to marry the right mission, with the right people, for the right reason, at the right time. With your assistance we can make beneficial, sustainable changes. Thank you for coming and for your support to this effort.

Sincerely,


Dale Meyerrose

5 Jun 06
Date